

Greetings,

My name is Seth Cane, I am a resident of Fairfield, Connecticut, and am grateful for being allowed to submit my testimony on the subject of Gun Violence. I attend Fairfield Warde High School, am 18 years of age, and am set to graduate in 2013.

I have been involved in the Firearm industry for some time as a hobby; I have a strong interest in Militaria and History which has driven this hobby for the most part. I have observed how vast the industry is and have communicated with many great people involved with it. I will testify that neither myself or anyone else I have met is the inconsiderate gun-nut that we are painted to be. Despite what many have claimed, we would never sacrifice our families in favor of our guns. That is nothing short of insulting.

Having said this, I feel that the proposals of a Assault Weapons-Ban and Magazine-Capacity Bans are some of the weakest of the proposed legislation. During neither of your public hearings, I did not hear anyone mention the fact that the state of Connecticut already has it's own Assault Weapons Ban implemented, which is a close variation of the national ban from 1994. Many weapons, including the vast majority of AR-15 rifles, are not legal in the state of Connecticut. The weapons which are derived from Military Weapons in the hands of civilians are already few and far between. While some may believe that there is a substantial amount, most semi-automatic rifles (my estimate is up to 80%) do not meet the requirements already put forth by the state, making it very difficult as it is to obtain such a weapon without first paying for costly modifications most dealers are not willing to do.

I would also like to touch on the argument of High-Capacity Magazines. Despite such few numbers of Military-style weapons in the state of Connecticut, the amount of magazines is likely substantial. Military Surplus 30 Round magazines could be had for the AR-15 rifle for as low as \$6 each, and the market is completely saturated with them. I have heard of some owners purchasing 100+ individual magazines for their rifles, simply because they are so inexpensive. Most magazines are also not marked with a manufacture date or serial number, which makes them nearly impossible to regulate. Also, some rifles may not be "Assault Weapons", yet they do not have magazines holding 10-Rounds or lower available, which brings up the question of what is done for said specific rifles and their owners in the case a ban is passed.

In my own opinion, neither of these proposed bills are at all feasible to enforce. Even if they should pass, there is nothing stopping a person from holding onto magazines above 10-Rounds because of the vast majority of them, and their unregulated status.

I personally own a rifle which would specifically be classified as an Assault Weapon in the proposed legislation. However, I obtained my rifle legally, and had to follow the already extensive law which limited the types of weapons I could own. I have my weapon for the protection of my family, as my father is no longer able to walk properly, and I fear the safety of both my parents and siblings should a threat ever arise.

The question has been presented countless times as to why I need such a weapon for defense or hunting, and I am here to say that it is not the job of the State or Federal government to deem what I own as being 'excessive'. We as a nation live with excess all around us. Yet, I do not hear anyone asking why I would need a six-passenger vehicle if my family only consisted of five persons. My reasons for owning a Military-style weapon is that it is reliable, efficient, and cheap to maintain.

The right to bear arms is also not a privilege for home-defense or hunting; it is an individual human right that cannot be infringed upon. Obviously, this right does not extend to explosive weaponry as some would claim the Gun-Lobby implies, but it does extend to Small-Arms of our time period, including those which are at risk of being banned.

I ask that you do not impose these bans, and merely support more mental-health solutions and background-checks.

Sincerely and most respectfully yours,

Seth Cane